

Bicycle Project Highlights: Off-Road

Wake County

Raleigh: Crabtree Creek Greenway Connector

TIP Project E-3603

The Crabtree Creek Greenway Connector is an urban, multi-use trail, located along a major tributary of the Neuse River. It runs behind Crabtree Valley Mall, one of the largest shopping malls in the Southeast. The 10-ft-wide asphalt trail provides an off-road connector to neighborhoods, commercial areas, hotels and restaurants. This 5000-foot-long trail includes an underpass with Glenwood Avenue (US 70), an eight-lane, high-volume arterial roadway that is hazardous for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross. Other design features include 1200 feet of keystone retaining wall, a 140-foot-long bridge, lighting for nighttime use, and centerline pavement marking.

The project was completed in 2001 as a cooperative effort between the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department. The Crabtree Creek Greenway Connector provides an essential link to an extensive greenway system to the north and will eventually link with new sections of greenway under construction to access parts of west Raleigh and Umstead State Park. As part of an emerging alternative transportation system, these greenways will ultimately connect to other Triangle communities, creating an extensive system of off-road bicycle transportation opportunities throughout the region.

In Autumn 2002, the Crabtree Creek Greenway Connector received an Honorable Mention in the "Excellence in Highway Design" competition, sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Award program criteria include compatibility with or adaptation to the environment, visual appeal, quality of construction and a pleasing user experience.



Existing terrain along Crabtree Creek prior to greenway construction



Project looking back through same area when 75% complete



Completed project showing concrete pavement along flood-prone section, keystone retaining wall and pavement markings



Approach to 12-ft-wide, 148-ft long, prefabricated steel bridge

Crabtree Creek Greenway Connector Receives Awards

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The Crabtree Creek Greenway Connector was completed in 2001 as a cooperative effort between the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department. It is located along a major tributary of the Neuse River behind Crabtree Valley Mall, one of the largest shopping malls in the southeast. The 10-ft wide asphalt multi-use trail is an off-road connector to residential areas, commercial areas, hotels and restaurants, constructed underneath one of the busiest transportation corridors in the state. The Crabtree Creek Connector also provides an essential link to an extensive greenway system to the north and will eventually link with new sections of greenway under construction to access parts of west Raleigh and Umstead State Park. As part of an emerging alternative transportation system, these greenways will ultimately connect to other Triangle communities, creating an extensive system of off-road bicycle transportation opportunities throughout the region.

Designed By:
Robert Graham, PE
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Project Manager:
Vic Lebsock, Planner
City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department

JUN 5 2003



400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

May 27, 2003

Refer to: HIPA-20

Mr. Thomas P. Norman
NCDOT Division of Bicycle
and Pedestrian Transportation
1541 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1541

Dear Mr. Norman:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that the project you submitted for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 2002 Excellence in Highway Design competition has won an award. Enclosed is a copy of the 2002 October *FOCUS* insert that indicates which award your project has won. It also lists all of the other winning projects in each category.

Full-color brochures and CDs illustrating the winning projects are available from the FHWA Division Office in your State. Enclosed are 10 copies of the brochure and a CD for your use. You may contact the FHWA Division Office for additional brochures and CDs. In addition, several plaques have been prepared to present to the organizations you requested on the entry form. The plaques will be sent to the appropriate FHWA Division Office within 2-3 weeks. A representative from the FHWA Division Office will contact you to schedule the award presentation to the respective organizations. I apologize for the delay in distributing the award plaques. Unfortunately, funding slowed down the ability to process and distribute the plaques to you in a timely manner.

One of the most difficult challenges facing the transportation community is to provide facilities that meet our transportation needs in ways that put people first—providing facilities that move people and goods in the safest and most efficient ways, while maintaining respect for the environment and nearby communities. As illustrated by your project and the other entries of the FHWA 2002 Excellence in Highway Design Awards, transportation providers at the local, State, and Federal levels (as well as highway contractors and designers in the private sector) have embraced that challenge with resounding success.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dwight A. Horne".

Dwight A. Horne
Director, Office of Program Administration

3 Enclosures

